

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 123816

R 021500Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1369

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CURACAO

COMCARIBSEAFRON

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0385

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FW

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF CANTONAL ELECTIONS- CONTINUED

REF: MARTINIQUE 372

1. SUMMARY SECOND ROUND OF CANTONAL ELECTION HELD SEPTEMBER 30

CONFIRMED GAULLIST LOSSES IN MARTINIQUE AND ELECTION

UNUSUALLY- LARGE NUMBER OF NEW GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS IN

GADELOUPE. IN NEITHER ISLAND IS PRO-DEPARTMENTAL-STATUS

RULING COALITION IN DANGER.

2. MARTINIQUE

A. IN ALL 18 SEATS WERE AT STAKE OF WHICH INCUMBENTS WON 13

OF THOSE WHICH CHANGED HANDS,GAULLISTS LOST FOUR TO

AUTONOMISTS WHILE PICKING UP ONE SEAT FROM A PRO-DEPARTMENTAL-STATUS

INDEPENDENT FOR NET LOSS OF THREE. THOSE THREE WENT TO AUTONOMISTS:

TWO COMMUNISTS ALLIES AND ONE PPM ALLY.

B. THOSE IN FAVOR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENTAL STATUS REMAIN

IN CONTROL GENERAL COUNCIL DESPITE THESE REVERSES.OF 36SEATS

IN THAT BODY GAULLISTS NOW HOLD 14 AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF

DEPARTMENTAL STATUS 11. AUTONOMISTS INCLUDE FOUR COMMUNISTS

AND TWO COMMUNIST ALLIES, THREE PPM AND ONE PPM ALLY AND ONE

ORTHODOX SOCIALIST.

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3. GUADELOUPE.

A. EIGHTEEN SEATS WERE LIKEWISE AT STAKE. NO LESS THAN SEVEN INCUMBENTS CHOSE NOT TO RUN AGAIN WHILE TWO INCUMBENTS WERE BEATEN.

B. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT WAS DEFEAT OF MSG PRESIDENT OF GENERAL COUNCIL HENRI RINALDO BY A COMMUNIST. MSG, WHO ARE PRO-DEPARTMENTAL-STATUS SOCIALISTS, ALSO LOST A SEAT TO AN INDEPENDENT BUT PICKED UP ANOTHER FROM A COMMUNIST FOR NET LOSS OF ONE. TOTAL COMMUNIST STRENGTH AND TOTAL GAULLIST STRENGTH REMAINED UNCHANGED.

C. PARTY TIES ARE EVEN LOOSER IN GUADELOUPE THAN IN MARTINIQUE., BUT LOOSE COALITION IN FAVOR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENTAL STATUS REMAINS IN CONTROL OF GUADELOUPE GENERAL COUNCIL. OF 36 SEATS IN THAT BODY MSG NOW HOLDS EIGHT, GAULLISTS SEVEN, AND INDEPENDENTS OF VARYING DEGREES OF ATTACHMENT TO STATUS QUO NINE. OUT AND OUT AUTONOMISTS INCLUDE TEN COMMUNISTS AND TWO EXTREME LEFT.

4. VOTERS DID NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER ELECTION TO BE REFERENDUM ON THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS NOR ON THEIR ATTACHMENT TO PARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTIES. AS IN PREVIOUS CANTONAL ELECTIONS, LACK OF POWER IN HANDS GENERAL COUNCILS RESULTED IN WEAK VOTER PARTICIPATION WHILE PERSONALITIES RATHER THAN ISSUES DOMINATED CAMPAIGNS. AS USUAL CONTROL OVER CITY HALL WAS OFTEN VITAL FACTOR IN ELECTORAL SUCCESS (A- 29 OF 5/2/73). IN MARTINIQUE FOUR OF FIVE NEW GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD ALREADY BEEN ELECTED MAYOR IN PREVIOUS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. OF NINE NEW GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS IN GUADELOUPE THREE HAD BEEN ELECTED MAYOR IN PREVIOUS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND FOUR MORE BELONG TO SAME POLITICAL PERSUASION AS INCUMBENT MAYOR.

5. ONLY SCANTY RESULTS AS YET AVAILABLE FROM FRENCH GUIANA.

6. DETAILS BY AIRGRAM.

REMOLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** MARTINIQUE 372  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESULTS OF CANTONAL ELECTIONS- CONTINUED  
**TAGS:** PINT, FW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005